

MSMEs under its Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme.

*GS Paper - 3 - Growth & Development ,
Indigenization of Technology , Industrial Policy*



Why in News

The Ministry of Electronics and Information (MeitY) is seeking applications from 100 domestic **semiconductor** chip design firms, companies, start-ups and **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** under its **Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme**.

- The DLI scheme is part of the MeitY's **comprehensive Program for the Development of Semiconductors and Display Manufacturing Ecosystems** in the country.
- Lately, there has been an abrupt and **cascading shortage of semiconductors worldwide**.

Semiconductors

- Any of a **class of crystalline solids intermediate in electrical conductivity** between a conductor and an insulator.
- Semiconductors are employed in the manufacture of various kinds of electronic devices, including **diodes, transistors, and integrated circuits**. Such devices have found wide application because of their compactness, reliability, power efficiency, and low cost.
- As discrete components, **they have found use in power devices, optical sensors, and light emitters, including solid-state lasers**.

Key Points

- **About:**
 - o Under the DLI Scheme **financial incentives and design infrastructure support will be extended to domestic companies, startups and MSMEs**.
 - o The incentives **will be provided across various stages of development and deployment of semiconductor design** for Integrated Circuits (ICs), Chipsets, System on Chips (SoCs), Systems & IP Cores and semiconductor linked design **for over a period of 5 years**.
- **Eligibility:**

- o The approved applicants that claim incentives under the scheme will be encouraged to **retain their domestic status** (i.e., more than 50% of the capital in it is beneficially owned by resident Indian citizens and/ or Indian companies, which are ultimately owned and controlled by resident Indian citizens) for a **period of three years** after claiming incentives under the scheme.
- o An **applicant must meet the Threshold and Ceiling Limits** to be eligible for disbursement of incentives under the Scheme.
 - A dedicated portal has also been made available.
- **Aim:**
 - o To **nurture at least 20 domestic companies** involved in semiconductor design and facilitate them to achieve turnover of more than Rs.1500 Crore in the next 5 years.
- **Approach:**
 - o The DLI Scheme will also take a **graded and pre-emptive approach** to Identify the Products of national priorities and implement strategies for their complete or near complete indigenisation & deployment thereby taking

steps towards the import substitution & value addition in strategic & societal sectors.

- **Nodal Agency:**
 - **C-DAC (Centre for Development of Advanced Computing)**, a scientific society operating under MeitY, will serve as the nodal agency for implementation of the DLI scheme.
- **Components of DLI:** The scheme has three components – Chip Design infrastructure support, Product Design Linked Incentive and Deployment Linked Incentive:
 - **Chip Design Infrastructure Support:** Under this, **C-DAC will set up the India Chip Centre to host the state-of-the-art design infrastructure** (viz. EDA Tools, IP Cores and support for MPW (Multi Project Wafer fabrication) & post-silicon validation) and **facilitate its access to supported companies.**
 - **Product Design Linked Incentive:** Under this, **a reimbursement of up to 50% of the eligible expenditure subject to a ceiling of Rs.15 Crore per application will be provided** as fiscal support to the approved applicants who are engaged in semiconductor design.
 - **Deployment Linked Incentive:** Under this, **an incentive of 6% to 4% of net sales**

turnover over 5 years subject to a ceiling of Rs.30 Crore per application will be provided to approved applicants whose semiconductor design for Integrated Circuits (ICs), Chipsets, System on Chips (SoCs), Systems & IP Cores and semiconductor linked design are deployed in electronic products.

▪ **Related Initiatives:**

o **For Semiconductor Fabs and Display Fabs:**

- Government would provide fiscal support of up to 50% of the project cost for setting up semiconductor and display fabrication units.

o **Semi-conductor Laboratory (SCL):**

- MeitY will take requisite steps for modernization and commercialization of Semi-conductor Laboratory (SCL).

o **For Compound Semiconductors:**

- Government will support fiscal support of 30% of capital expenditure to approved Compound Semiconductors units.

o **India Semiconductor Mission:**

- In order to drive the long-term strategies for developing a sustainable semiconductors and display ecosystem, **a specialised and independent India**

Semiconductor Mission (ISM) will be set up.

o **Production Linked Incentives:**

- Incentive support to the tune of Rs.55,392 crore (7.5 billion USD) have been approved under [Product Linked Incentive \(PLI\)](#) for Largest Scale Electronics Manufacturing, PLI for IT Hardware, SPECS Scheme and Modified [Electronics Manufacturing Clusters](#) (EMC 2.0) Scheme.

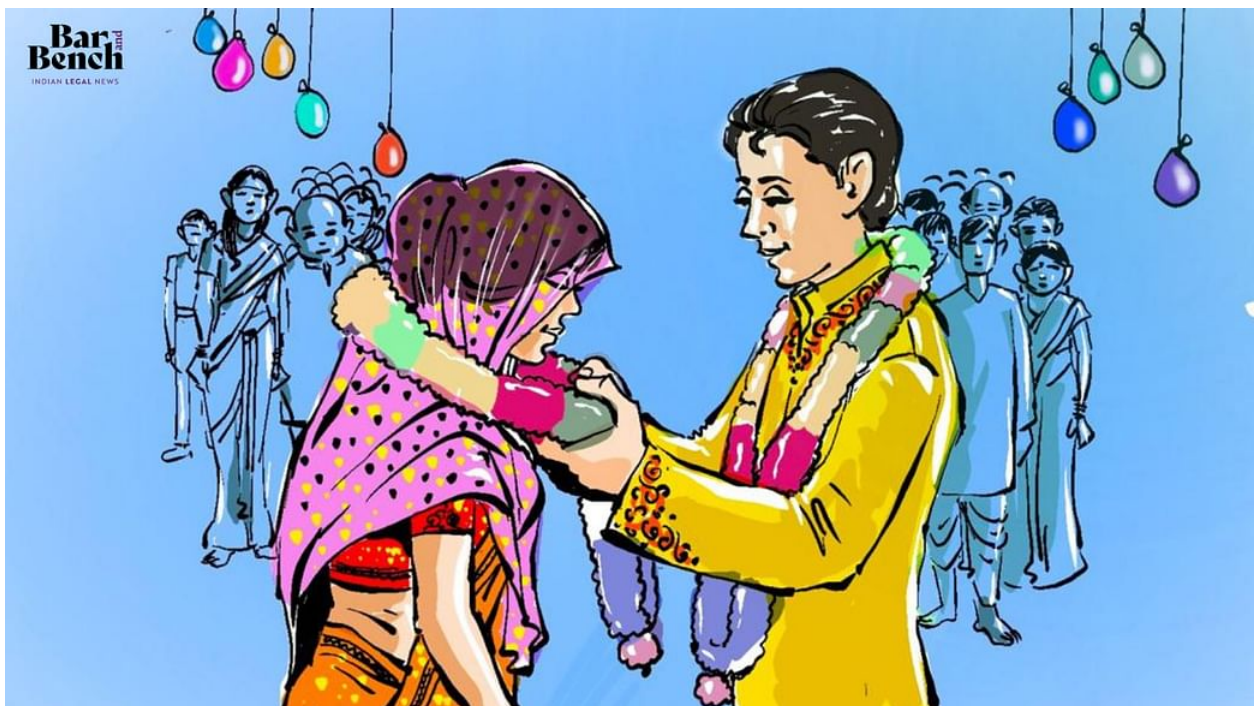
Centre for Development of Advanced Computing

- C-DAC is the **premier Research & Development organisation of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** for carrying out R&D in IT, Electronics and associated areas.
- **India's first supercomputer PARAM 8000** was indigenously built (in 1991) by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing.

Source:PIB

Special Marriage Act (SMA), 1954, being challenged in the Supreme Court.

GS Paper - 1 - GS Paper - 2 , Issues Related to
Women , Women's Issues , Government Policies &
Interventions



Why in News

Recently, the law that governs inter-faith marriages in the country, the Special Marriage Act (SMA), 1954, is being challenged in the Supreme Court.

- In 2021, petitions were filed to strike down several of its provisions.

The Special Marriage Act (SMA), 1954

- It is the legislation made to validate and register interreligious and inter-caste marriages in India.
- It allows two individuals to **solemnise their marriage through a civil contract.**
- No religious formalities are needed to be carried out under the Act.
- This Act includes **Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Jains, and Buddhists marriages.**
- This Act applies not only to Indian citizens who belong to different castes and religions but also to Indian nationals who live abroad.

About the Current Petition

- **Section 5** of the SMA requires a **person marrying** under this law to give a notice of intended marriage.
- **Section 6(2)** says it should be **affixed at a conspicuous place at the office of the marriage officer.**
- **Section 7(1)** allows any person to object to the marriage within 30 days of the publication of the notice, failing which a marriage can be solemnised under **Section 7(2).**

- Due to these provisions breaching personal liberties, several inter-faith couples approached the Court, **challenging Sections 6 and 7 of the Act.**

Key Points

- **About Interfaith Marriages:**
 - o The matrimonial relationship developed between two individuals having different religious faiths.
 - o Although marrying into a different religion is a matter of choice for an adult, there are certain issues regarding the same.
- **Issues with Interfaith Marriages:**
 - o Interfaith marriages are believed to be a **forced conversion of one of the spouses (mostly women).**
 - o As per the Muslim Personal law, in order to get married to a non-Muslim, **conversion of religion is the only way.**
 - o Hindu religion allows **only monogamy** and those **who want to marry a second time take another course.**
 - o There is no provision regarding **caste determination of children born out of such marriages.**

- o The Special Marriage Act, 1954 is **not compatible with backwardness of the society.**
- o There is debate over the validity of **Article 226 in the context of annulling the interfaith marriage by the high court.**
 - **Article 226:** Power of high courts to issue certain **writs.**
- **Challenges with Contemplating Laws for Interfaith Marriages:**
 - o **Against Fundamental Rights:** Interference of the law in an individual's choice of marriage violates the existing fundamental rights such as:
 - **Right to equality (Article 14),**
 - **Right to Freedom & Personal Liberty (Article 19),**
 - **Freedom of Religion and Right to Life (Article 25 and Article 21).**
 - o **Against Secularism:** Indian Constitution enshrines **secularism** as one of the cardinal principles.
 - **Article 25 of the Indian constitution** provides the freedom to practice any religion of one's choice.
 - Hence, in India inter-faith marriages are allowed as the constitution allows one

to convert to a different religion from what one was born with and further the personal laws of the religion have provisions.

o **Asymmetrical With Various Supreme Court's Judgements:**

- The Supreme Court in ***Shafin Jahan v Ashok KM (2018)***, has upheld the right to marry a person of one's choice as a part of Article 21.
- According to the Supreme Court, the Constitution protects the ability of each individual to pursue a way of life or faith to which she or he seeks to adhere.
- Therefore, the right to marry a person of one's choice is integral to Article 21 of the Constitution.
- Further, Supreme Court in **[K.S. Puttaswamy v UOI \(2017\)](#)** judgement held that "**right of choice of a family life**" as a fundamental right.

o **Patriarchal Roots:** This shows the law has deep-seated patriarchal roots, wherein women are infantilised, placed under parental and community control, and denied the right to take life decisions, should those decisions not be agreeable to their guardians.

Way Forward

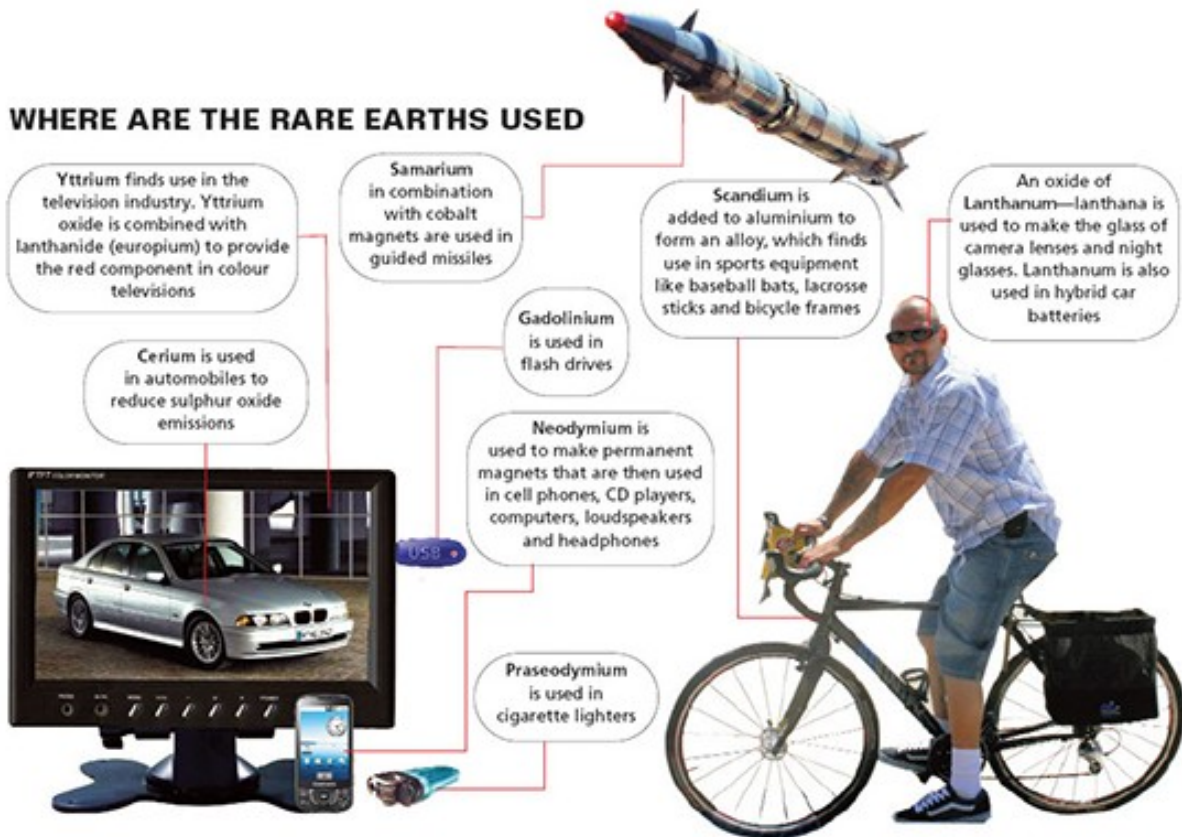
- In order to avoid inclusion of any further laws, there should be acceptance of the special marriage act, 1954 at the mental and social level.
- The rights should not be exploited; conversion of religion for marriage only is not at all wise.

Source: TH

Rare Earth Metals and its significance

GS Paper - 1 - Types of Resources , Mineral & Energy Resources , GS Paper - 2 , India and its Neighbourhood , Effect of Policies & Politics of Countries on India's Interests , GS Paper - 3

WHERE ARE THE RARE EARTHS USED



Why in News

Recently, the US has proposed a law aiming to end China's alleged "chokehold" on rare-earth metal supplies.

- The Bill aims to "protect the US from the threat of rare-earth element supply disruptions, encourage domestic production of those elements, and reduce its reliance on China.
- The law would require the creation of a **"strategic reserve" of rare earth minerals by 2025.**

- o That reserve would be tasked with responding to the needs of the army, the tech sector and other essential infrastructure “for one year in the event of a supply disruption”.

Key Points

- **About:**

- o They are a set of **seventeen metallic elements**. These include the **fifteen lanthanides** on the [periodic table](#) in addition to **scandium and yttrium** that show similar physical and chemical properties to the lanthanides.
- o The **17 Rare Earths** are cerium (Ce), dysprosium (Dy), erbium (Er), europium (Eu), gadolinium (Gd), holmium (Ho), lanthanum (La), lutetium (Lu), neodymium (Nd), praseodymium (Pr), promethium (Pm), samarium (Sm), scandium (Sc), terbium (Tb), thulium (Tm), ytterbium (Yb), and yttrium (Y).
- o These minerals have **unique magnetic, luminescent, and electrochemical properties** and thus are used in many modern technologies, including consumer electronics, computers and networks, communications, health care, national defense, etc.

- o Even **futuristic technologies** need these REEs (For example high-temperature superconductivity, safe storage and transport of hydrogen for a post-hydrocarbon economy, environmental global warming and energy efficiency issues).
- o They are called '**rare earth**' because earlier it was **difficult to extract them from their oxides forms technologically**.
- o They **occur in many minerals** but typically in low concentrations to be refined in an economical manner.
- **India's Current Policy on Rare Earths:**
 - o Exploration in India has been conducted by the **Bureau of Mines and the Department of Atomic Energy**. Mining and processing has been performed by some minor private players in the past, but is today concentrated in the hands of **IREL (India) Limited** (formerly Indian Rare Earths Limited), a Public Sector Undertaking under the Department of Atomic Energy.
 - o India has granted government corporations such as **IREL a monopoly** over the primary mineral that contains REEs: monazite beach sand, found in many coastal states.

- o IREL produces **rare earth oxides** (low-cost, low-reward “upstream processes”), selling these to foreign firms that extract the metals and manufacture end products (high-cost, high-reward “downstream processes”) elsewhere.
- o IREL’s focus is to provide thorium — extracted from monazite — to the Department of Atomic Energy.
- **China’s Monopoly:**
 - o China has over time **acquired global domination of rare earths**, even at one point, it produced 90% of the rare earths the world needs.
 - o Today, however, it has **come down to 60%** and the remaining is produced by other countries, including the **Quad (Australia, India, Japan and United States)**.
 - o Since 2010, when **China curbed shipments of Rare Earths** to Japan, the US, and Europe, production units have come up in Australia, and the US along with smaller units in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.
 - o Even so, the dominant share of processed Rare Earths lies with China.
- **Heavy dependence on China (India and the World):**

- o India has the **world's fifth-largest reserves of rare earth elements**, nearly twice as much as Australia, but it imports most of its rare earth needs in finished form from China.
- o In 2019, the US imported 80% of its rare earth minerals from China while the European Union gets 98% of its supply from China.

Way Forward

- India needs to create a **new Department for Rare Earths (DRE)**, which would play the role of a regulator and enabler for businesses in this space.
 - o Currently, mining and processing has been **largely concentrated in the hands of IREL (India) Limited**, a PSU under the department of atomic energy.
 - o Its progress and capacity to produce rare earths, while growing slowly, is nowhere close to **international REE conglomerates**.
- Indian companies can be **encouraged to form such junior exploration businesses** in the [Indian Ocean Region](#) to prospect for REEs and feed value added products into the Indian market.
 - o Most governments in this region have mining and exploration friendly policies and

welcome investment. India has strong historical, cultural, business and Diaspora links in this region that has developed over centuries of trade and migration.

- India can also **coordinate with other agencies** to partner directly with groupings such as the Quad, **building up a strategic reserve as a buffer against global supply crises.**

[Source: TH](#)

24th National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG)

GS Paper - 2 - E-Governance , Government Policies & Interventions , GS Paper - 4



Why in News

Recently, the **24th National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG)** was organised by the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions) and Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), in association with the State Government of Telangana.

- DARPG is the nodal agency of the Government of India for administrative reforms as well as redressal of public grievances relating to the states in general and those pertaining to Central Government agencies in particular.

Key Points

- **About:**

- o The Conference provides a **platform for constructive exchange of ideas** on some of the latest technologies for promoting **e-Governance**.
- o At the conference, the '**Hyderabad Declaration**' on e-Governance was adopted.
 - The declaration aims to bring citizens and governments closer through digital platforms and transform citizen services through the use of technology.
- o The Conference resolved that Government of India and State Governments shall collaborate to:
 - Transform citizen services through use of technology by leveraging the artifacts of India Stack that include **Aadhaar, UPI, DigiLocker, UMANG, e Sign** and consent framework.
 - **Fast track the implementation** of the national level public digital platforms in key social sectors viz. Health, Education, Agriculture, etc by adopting open interoperable architecture for joined up connected services.

- **Operationalize the data governance framework** to facilitate data sharing within Government entities as also make available all data on data.gov.in except for a negative list.
- Foster responsible use of emerging technology such as **Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Blockchain, 5G, Augmented Reality, Virtual Reality**, etc for Social Empowerment.
- Make India the global hub for emerging technology through creation of a large pool of skilled resources on futuristic technologies.
- Ensure resilient Government Infrastructure with robust technological solutions to withstand pandemic like disruptions.
- Integration of all State/District portals with **Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS)** for seamless Redressal of Public Grievances.
- **National E-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) 2021** to be adopted in collaboration with MeITY for improving e-Governance landscape.

- **Theme:** “India’s Techade: Digital Governance in a Post Pandemic World”
- **National e-Governance Awards 2021:**
 - o To recognise the implementation of e-Governance initiatives, the National e-Governance Awards 2021 were presented during the Inaugural Session.
 - o 26 awards were presented under the 6 categories of the Award Scheme to Central Ministries/Departments, State/UT Governments, Districts, Local Bodies, Public Sector Undertakings and Academic & Research Institutions.
 - o These Awards are being given **since 2003**.

E-governance

- **About:**
 - o It can be defined as the **usage of Information and Communication Technology (ICT)** by the government **to provide and facilitate government services**, exchange of information, communication transactions and integration of various standalone systems and services.
 - o Through e-governance, **government services are made available to citizens and businesses** in a convenient, efficient and transparent manner.

- **Types of Interactions in e-Governance:**
 - **Government to Government (G2G):**
 - Information is exchanged within the government i.e., either, between the central government, state government and local governments or between different branches of the same government.
 - **Government to Citizen (G2C):**
 - The citizens have a platform through which they can interact with the government and get access to the variety of public services offered by the Government.
 - **Government to Businesses (G2B):**
 - The businesses are able to interact with the government seamlessly with respect to the services of the government offered to businesses.
 - **Government to Employees (G2E):**
 - The interaction between the government and its employees occurs in an efficient and speedy manner.
- **Objectives:**
 - To support and simplify governance for government, citizens, and businesses.
 - To make government administration more transparent and accountable while addressing the society's needs and

expectations through efficient public services and effective interaction between the people, businesses, and government.

- o To reduce corruption in the government.
- o To ensure speedy administration of services and information.
- o To reduce difficulties for business, provide immediate information and enable digital communication by e-business.

▪ **Challenges:**

- o **Lack of computer literacy:** India is still a developing country and a vast majority of the citizens lack computer literacy which hinders the effectiveness of e-governance.
- o **Lack of accessibility:** Lack of accessibility to the internet or even computers in some parts of the country is a disadvantage to e-governance.
- o **Loss of Human interaction:** Governance results in a loss of human interaction. As the system becomes more mechanised, lesser interaction takes place among people.
- o **Risk of Data Theft:** It gives rise to the risk of personal data theft and leakage.
- o **Lax Administration:** Governance leads to a lax administration. The service provider

can easily provide excuses for not providing the service on technical grounds such as “server is down” or “internet is not working”, etc.

▪ **e-Governance in the Indian context:**

- o There are a large number of e-Governance initiatives, both at the Union and State levels.
- o In 2006, the **National e-Governance Plan (NeGP)** was formulated by the Department of Electronics and Information Technology and Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances that aims at making all government services accessible to the common man, ensure efficiency, transparency and reliability of such services at affordable costs to realise the basic needs of the common man.
- o **NeGP** has enabled many e-governance **initiatives:**
 - **Digital India, Aadhaar, myGov.in, (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance) App, Digital Locker, PayGov, Computerisation of Land Records.**
 - myGov.in is a national citizen engagement platform where people can

share ideas and be involved with matters of policy and governance.

- PayGov facilitates online payments to all public and private banks.

Way Forward

- A **hybrid approach** needs to be adopted for enhancing interoperability among e-governance applications which will encompass a centralized approach for document management, knowledge management, file management, grievance management etc.
- The e-governance initiatives in **rural areas should be taken by identifying and analyzing the grassroots realities.**
- The government should also **focus on devising appropriate, feasible, distinct and effective capacity building mechanisms** for various stakeholders viz bureaucrats, rural masses, urban masses, elected representatives, etc.
- e-Governance through regional languages is appreciable for nations like India where people from several linguistic backgrounds are the participants.

[Source: PIB](#)

Second edition of National Startup Awards 2021

GS Paper - 3 - Growth & Development ,
Employment , Investment Models , Industrial
Growth , Capital Market



The banner features the Government of India logo and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. It includes a portrait of Narendra Modi, Prime Minister, and the text: 'NATIONAL STARTUP AWARDS 2021', 'Applications open till 31st January, 2021', and '#startupindia'. Below the banner, a list of research/job areas is provided: Agriculture/Animal Husbandry/Drinking water/Education & Skill Development/Energy/Enterprise Systems/Environment/FinTech/Food Processing/Health & Wellness/Industry 4.0/Security/Space/Transport/Travel. The last date is highlighted in yellow: **Last Date – 31 January 2021**.

Why in News

Recently, the Union Minister of Commerce & Industry presented the **second edition of National Startup Awards 2021**.

- It was also announced that **16th January (Startup India Initiative was launched on this day in 2016)** will be celebrated as **National Start-up Day**, to take the Startup culture to the far flung areas of the country.

- The '**Blockchain-enabled verification** for Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) tax incentive certificates', '**Digilocker** enabled DPIIT Startup recognition certificate' were also launched.

Startup India Initiative

- It envisages **building a robust Startup ecosystem in the country** for nurturing innovation and providing opportunities to budding entrepreneurs. It was launched in 2016.
- The action plan of this initiative focuses on following three areas:
 - o Simplification and Handholding.
 - o Funding Support and Incentives.
 - o Industry-Academia Partnership and Incubation.

Key Points

- **Designed by:**
 - o Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
- **Aim:**
 - o To recognize and reward outstanding Startups and ecosystem enablers that are building innovative products or solutions and scalable enterprises, with high potential of

employment generation or wealth creation, demonstrating measurable social impact.

- **2021 Awards:**

- o The second edition of the awards invited applications across **15 sectors and 49 sub-sectors.**

- o The 2021 edition of the awards also recognized exceptional Startups innovating solutions to promote Indic languages and to compliment national efforts to combat [Covid-19 pandemic.](#)

- All applicants were **evaluated against six broad parameters** namely Innovation, Scalability, Economic Impact, Social Impact, Environmental Impact, and Inclusiveness and Diversity.

- **Prize:**

- o The winning startup founders will get a cash prize of Rs. 5 lakh and an opportunity to present their solutions to relevant public authorities and corporates. Incubators and accelerators will get Rs. 15 lakh as the winning amount.

- 46 startups along with 1 incubator and 1 accelerator were honoured with the award.

Status of Start-ups in India

- **About:**

- Today, India is the **third largest start-up ecosystem globally** (by number of start-ups) with more than 15,000 start-ups established in 2020, up from 5000 in 2010.
- The underlying enablers of this startup ecosystem include smartphone and internet penetration, [cloud computing, application programming interfaces \(APIs\)](#), and a national payments stack in place.
- Additionally, amid the **Covid-19 pandemic**, India has witnessed more number of **Unicorn startups (startups having valuation of over USD1 billion) in just 2021** than it did in the period 2011-20.
- However, still there are many challenges (Building and Scaling an Indian Startup, Diversity and the **Digital Divide**, Complex Regulatory Environment) that act as a hindrance in realising the true potential of startups in India.

- **Other Related Initiatives:**

- [Ranking of States on Support to Startup Ecosystems](#): It is an evolved evaluation tool aimed to strengthen the support of States and UTs to holistically build their startup ecosystems.

- o **SCO Startup Forum:** The first-ever [Shanghai Cooperation Organisation \(SCO\)](#) Startup Forum was launched in October 2020 to develop and improve startup ecosystems collectively.
- o **Prarambh:** The 'Prarambh' Summit aims to provide a platform to the startups and young minds from around the world to come up with new ideas, innovation and invention.
- o [Startup India Seed Fund Scheme](#): It aims to provide financial assistance to startups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry, and commercialization.
- o [Fisheries Startup Grand Challenge](#): The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying In association with Startup India, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry inaugurated the **Fisheries Startup Grand Challenge**.

[Source: PIB](#)

Daily quiz

1) Consider the following statements regarding the India State of Forest Report, 2021:

1. The report is published biannually by the Ministry of Environment, forest and climate change.
2. Madhya Pradesh has the largest forest cover in the country followed by Maharashtra.
3. Every Northeastern state reported loss in forest cover, with Manipur recording the highest loss in forest cover among the eight states.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

- a. 1 and 3 only
- b. 1 and 2 only
- c. 2 only
- d. 3 only

Answer : d

2) Consider the following statements regarding Purple revolution:

1. It functions under the Aroma mission launched by the Ministry of Agriculture.
2. The main ingredient of the purple revolution is the Lilac flower.
3. Hydrosol formed after distillation from the lavender flower is used to make soaps.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 3 only
- c. 1 only
- d. 2 and 3 only

Answer : b

3) Consider the following statements regarding the Registration of political parties in India:

1. Registration of Political parties is governed by the provisions of Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
2. A party seeking registration has to submit an application to the Election Commission within a period of six weeks following the date of its formation.
3. The power of election commission with this regard is obtained from article 326 of the Indian Constitution.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are **incorrect**?

- a. 2 and 3 only
- b. 2 only
- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. 1 and 2 only

Answer : a

4) Consider the following statements regarding the Khoisan tribes:

1. They form the majority in the Kohima district in Nagaland.
2. They are an integration of two communities, the Khoikhoi, who were nomadic farmers and San, who were hunter-gatherers.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : b

5) Consider the following statements:

1. If an MLA, for a period sixty days, is absent from all the meetings of the house without prior permission, then the house may declare his seat vacant.
2. No constituency can remain without a representative for more than six months, barring exceptions specified under Representation of People Act.
3. The constitution, under article 190, prescribes that the date of suspension of an MLA can maximum be at 1 year.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

- a. 2 only
- b. 3 only
- c. 1 and 2 only
- d. 2 and 3 only

Answer : c